

1 AN ACT relating to the siting of cellular antenna towers.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 100.987 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) A planning unit as defined in KRS 100.111 and legislative body or fiscal court that  
5 has adopted planning and zoning regulations may plan for and regulate the siting of  
6 cellular antenna towers in accordance with locally adopted planning or zoning  
7 regulations in this chapter, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- 8 (2) Every utility or a company that is engaged in the business of providing the required  
9 infrastructure to a utility that proposes to construct an antenna tower for cellular  
10 telecommunications services or personal communications services within the  
11 jurisdiction of a planning unit that has adopted planning and zoning regulations in  
12 accordance with this chapter shall:
- 13 (a) Submit a copy of the applicant's completed uniform application to the  
14 planning commission of the affected planning unit to construct an antenna  
15 tower for cellular or personal telecommunications services. The uniform  
16 application shall include a grid map that shows the location of all existing  
17 cellular antenna towers and that indicates the general position of proposed  
18 construction sites for new cellular antenna towers within an area that includes:
- 19 1. All of the planning unit's jurisdiction; and
  - 20 2. A one-half (1/2) mile area outside of the boundaries of the planning  
21 unit's jurisdiction, if that area contains either existing or proposed  
22 construction sites for cellular antenna towers;
- 23 (b) Include in any contract with an owner of property upon which a cellular  
24 antenna tower is to be constructed, a provision that specifies, in the case of  
25 abandonment, a method that the utility will follow in dismantling and  
26 removing a cellular antenna tower, including a timetable for removal; and
- 27 (c) Comply with any local ordinances concerning land use, subject to the

1 limitations imposed by 47 U.S.C. sec. 332(c), KRS 278.030, 278.040, and  
2 278.280.

3 (3) All information contained in the application and any updates, except for any map or  
4 other information that specifically identifies the proposed location of the cellular  
5 antenna tower then being reviewed, shall be deemed confidential and proprietary  
6 within the meaning of KRS 61.878. The local planning commission shall deny any  
7 public request for the inspection of this information, whether submitted under  
8 Kentucky's Open Records Act or otherwise, except when ordered to release the  
9 information by a court of competent jurisdiction. Any person violating this  
10 subsection shall be guilty of official misconduct in the second degree as provided  
11 under KRS 522.030.

12 (4) After an applicant's submission of the uniform application to construct a cellular  
13 antenna tower, the planning commission shall:

14 (a) Review the uniform application in light of its agreement with the  
15 comprehensive plan and locally adopted zoning regulations;

16 (b) Make its final decision to approve or disapprove the uniform application; and

17 (c) Advise the applicant in writing of its final decision within sixty (60) days  
18 commencing from the date that the uniform application is submitted to the  
19 planning commission or within a date certain specified in a written agreement  
20 between the local planning commission and the applicant. If the planning  
21 commission fails to issue a final decision within sixty (60) days and if there is  
22 no written agreement between the local planning commission and the  
23 applicant to a specific date for the planning commission to issue a decision,  
24 the uniform application shall be deemed approved.

25 (5) If the planning commission disapproves of the proposed construction, it shall state  
26 the reasons for disapproval in its written decision and may make suggestions which,  
27 in its opinion, better accomplish the objectives of the comprehensive plan and the

1 locally adopted zoning regulations. No permit for construction of a cellular or  
2 personal communications services antenna tower shall be issued until the planning  
3 commission approves the uniform application or the sixty (60) day time period has  
4 expired, whichever occurs first.

5 (6) The planning commission may require the applicant to make a reasonable attempt  
6 to co-locate additional transmitting or related equipment. A planning commission  
7 may provide the location of existing cellular antenna towers on which the  
8 commission deems the applicant can successfully co-locate its transmitting and  
9 related equipment. If the local planning commission requires the applicant to  
10 attempt co-location, the applicant shall provide the local planning unit with a  
11 statement indicating that the applicant has:

12 (a) Successfully attempted to co-locate on towers designed to host multiple  
13 wireless service providers' facilities or existing structures such as a  
14 telecommunications tower or another suitable structure capable of supporting  
15 the applicant's facilities, and that identifies the location of the tower or  
16 suitable structure on which the applicant will co-locate its transmission and  
17 related facilities; or

18 (b) Unsuccessfully attempted to co-locate on towers designed to host multiple  
19 wireless service provider's facilities or existing structures such as a  
20 telecommunications tower or another suitable structure capable of supporting  
21 the applicant's facilities and that:

22 1. Identifies the location of the towers or other structures on which the  
23 applicant attempted to co-locate; and

24 2. Lists the reasons why the co-location was unsuccessful in each instance.

25 (7) The local planning commission may deny a uniform application to construct a  
26 cellular antenna tower based on an applicant's unwillingness to attempt to co-locate  
27 additional transmitting or related equipment on any new or existing towers or other

1 structures.

2 (8) In the event of co-location, a utility shall be considered the primary user of the  
3 tower, if the utility is the owner of the antenna tower and if no other agreement  
4 exists that prescribes an alternate arrangement between the parties for use of the  
5 tower. Any other entity that co-locates transmission or related facilities on a cellular  
6 antenna tower shall do so in a manner that does not impose additional costs or  
7 operating restrictions on the primary user.

8 (9) Upon the approval of an application for the construction of a cellular antenna tower  
9 by a planning commission, the applicant shall notify the Public Service  
10 Commission within ten (10) working days of the approval. The notice to the Public  
11 Service Commission shall include a map showing the location of the construction  
12 site. If an applicant fails to file notice of an approved uniform application with the  
13 Public Service Commission, the applicant shall be prohibited from beginning  
14 construction on the cellular antenna tower until such notice has been made.

15 (10) A party aggrieved by a final action of a planning commission under the provisions  
16 of KRS 100.985 to 100.987 may bring an action for review in any court of  
17 competent jurisdiction.

18 (11) Applications for approval of cellular antenna towers on property owned by any state  
19 agency, university electing to perform financial management of its real properties  
20 pursuant to KRS 164A.555 to 164A.630, department, board, commission, authority,  
21 or other instrumentality of the state that is exempt from zoning regulations under  
22 KRS 100.361, other than property for which the use is controlled by the secretary of  
23 the Finance and Administration Cabinet pursuant to KRS 56.463(4)(a), shall be  
24 submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval under KRS 278.650.

25 **(12) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a planning unit, legislative**  
26 **body, or fiscal court that has adopted planning and zoning regulations shall not**  
27 **approve the siting of a cellular antenna tower capable of providing fifth**

1 generation or 5G mobile communications service within one thousand six  
2 hundred forty (1,640) feet of any:

3 (a) Inhabitable building of any size or occupancy, including but not limited to  
4 any residence, school, hospital, or nursing home; or

5 (b) Outdoor space where people gather in numbers of ten (10) or more.

6 ➔Section 2. KRS 278.650 is amended to read as follows:

7 (1) If an applicant proposes construction of an antenna tower for cellular  
8 telecommunications services or personal communications services which is to be  
9 located in an area outside the jurisdiction of a planning commission, or outside the  
10 jurisdiction of the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet pursuant to  
11 KRS 56.463(4)(a), the applicant shall apply to the Public Service Commission for a  
12 certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to KRS 278.020(1),  
13 278.665, and this section. The commission shall convene a local public hearing on  
14 the application upon the receipt of a request from the local governing body or from  
15 not less than three (3) interested persons that reside in a county or municipal  
16 corporation in which the tower is proposed to be constructed. In reviewing the  
17 application, the commission may take into account the character of the general area  
18 concerned and the likely effects of the installation on nearby land uses and values.  
19 A local government may charge a fee for a building permit, in connection with the  
20 construction or alteration of any structure for cellular telecommunications services  
21 or personal communication services, if the fee does not exceed that charged for any  
22 other commercial structure of comparable cost of construction.

23 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the commission shall not  
24 approve the siting of a cellular antenna tower capable of providing fifth  
25 generation or 5G mobile communications service within one thousand six  
26 hundred forty (1,640) feet of any:

27 (a) Inhabitable building of any size or occupancy, including but not limited to

- 1                    *any residence, school, hospital, or nursing home; or*
- 2                    *(b) Outdoor space where people gather in numbers of ten (10) or more.*